

Why Lincoln Was a Lawyer: Abraham Lincoln, the Law & Civic Education

Middle School Unit Introduction **Grades 6–8**

These lessons are designed to offer classroom presenters an array of activities, all of which are planned to teach to the theme, “Why Lincoln Was a Lawyer: Abraham Lincoln, the Law & Civic Education.” The classroom presenter may choose those activities that they feel are best suited to their students’ needs.

Lesson 1. Teaching with Images: The Image of Lincoln as an Heroic Citizen

Students will explore and study Lincoln as an example of an heroic citizen using a variety of primary and secondary sources: photos, photos of Lincoln statues, a biography, a reading, and an Image Analysis form.

Lesson 2. The Gettysburg Address and the Character of Lincoln

Students will interpret how Lincoln’s character, his citizenship, and his belief in the American people are illuminated by his choice of words for the Gettysburg Address.

Lesson 3. The Emancipation Proclamation vs. the Thirteenth Amendment

Students will explore Lincoln’s views on individual rights and the power to create law by analyzing and comparing the Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth Amendment.

Indiana Core Standards—Grades 6, 7, 8 **(More detailed standards found on page 48)**

- History: Historical Knowledge
- History: Chronological Thinking, Historical Comprehension, Analysis and Interpretation, Research
- Civics and Government: Functions of Government
- Civics and Government: Foundations of Government
- Civics and Government: Roles of Citizens